

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of cancelled Claim 2. Accordingly, support for amended Claim 1 can be found in Claims 1 and 2, as previously presented. Applicants have also amended Claims 3-6, 9-11, 13-17, 20, 23, and 26 for clarity. Accordingly, support for amended Claims 3-6, 9-11, 13-17, 20, 23, and 26 can be found in the same claims, as previously presented.

No new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 3-26 are active in this application.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Douglas for indicating that Claims 2, 3, 11, 16, 20, 23, and 26 were only objected to for depending from a rejected base claim and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that, in view of the present amendments and remarks, all of the pending claims are now allowable.

The rejection of Claims 1, 4-10, 12-15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,644,306 (Riebe et al.) in view of Published U.S. Patent Application No. 2008/0226564 (Weers et al.) has been obviated by amendment. As noted above, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 2. Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references for the same reasons that Claim 2 was not rejected in view of these references.

Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

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Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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